National Aeronautics and
Space Administration
Headquarters
Washington, DC 20546-0001

February 2, 2006

Reply to Attn of: Office of the Chief Engineer

TO: Officials-in-Charge of Headquarters Offices
Directors, NASA Centers

FROM: Chief Engineer
Chief Safety and Mission Assurance Officer
Chief Information Officer

SUBJECT: 13th Annual NASA Software of the Year Award

As sponsors for the 13th Annual NASA Software of the Year Award, we are pleased to announce the call for nominations. This prestigious award is designed to give recognition to developers of exceptional software created for or by and owned by NASA. Every NASA Center and Facility is cordially invited to participate in this competition. The award includes the NASA Software Medal, a certificate signed by the Administrator, and up to $100,000.

The NASA Inventions and Contributions Board Web site, http://icb.nasa.gov/, contains information about the last 12 competitions. The enclosure contains eligibility information and describes the selection process.

Excellence in software is vital to the Agency's leadership role in developing aeronautics and space technologies and transferring them to government and industry. The NASA Software of the Year Award competition allows us to recognize and appreciate the NASA team members that set high standards for significant software that is creative, usable, transferable, and possesses inherent quality. Please join us in fully supporting this year's competition.

C.J. Scolese
Christopher J. Scolese

Bryan D. O'Connor

Patricia L. Dunnington

Enclosure

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Chief of Staff/Mr. Morrell
Deputy Chief of Staff and White House Liaison/Mr. Jezierski
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Stennis Space Center/Mr. Parsons

cc:
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Office of the Administrator/Ms. Hutchinson
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Mr. Forsgren
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Eligibility

The competition is open to author(s) of outstanding scientific and technical software which has:

(1) been officially released by a project within the last 3 years. Note: Software may only be considered officially released after all experimental phases have been successfully completed to the satisfaction of the customer.
(2) received the Invention and Contributions Board's (ICB's) initial software release award for the contribution prior to April 14, 2006,
(3) a current Technology Readiness Level (TRL) of 7 or higher,
(4) a NASA intellectual property interest,
(5) been supported, adopted, sponsored, or used by NASA, and
(6) made a significant scientific or technical contribution to the NASA mission.

It is highly recommended that the local NASA Safety and Mission Assurance organization's software assurance personnel review and provide a report on the candidate software, its release status, and the processes followed for its development. In addition, all software must be in compliance with NASA security procedures per NASA Policy Directive 2810, NASA Information Security Policy.

- NASA Centers, NASA Facilities (e.g., Independent Verification and Validation Facility, Wallops Flight Facility, White Sands Test Facility, Plumbrook, etc.), major contractors, supporting universities, and small businesses may participate.

Entries

- Each individual entry must be submitted electronically (either by e-mail, Web site access, ftp site access, or on compact disk, DVD, superdisk, or zip drive) using NASA Form 1329, ICB Award Evaluation Questionnaire, and the NASA Software of the Year Summary Evaluation Document. NASA Form 1329 Part II must also be submitted through the Awards Liaison Officer, in hard copy, which contains the original signatures of the official NASA technical management reviewers. Copies of the software, sample applications and data, and descriptive documentation of the package should be provided, but only electronically. The entry must be supplemented by evidence (letters from software users submitted electronically) demonstrating the software's impact, degree of innovation, and suitability. This information will be the primary data used by the ICB in recommending awards, and will be electronically submitted to the judges.

NASA Centers will collect and evaluate entries from their associated activities.

Each NASA Center may then select and submit a nominee. Component NASA Facilities may submit one additional nominee if the entry was initiated by a Facility under its cognizance.

Deadlines

- Submit entries and supporting material to NASA Centers not later than April 14, 2006.
- Each NASA Center will forward its top selection(s) to the Invention and Contributions Board (ICB) by May 15, 2006.

Judging

- Entries will be judged by a NASA Software Award Review Panel comprised of a software development expert from each NASA Center and NASA Facility, if it has a nominee.
- After their review, the Panel will submit its nominee(s) to the ICB.
- The ICB will then recommend monetary awards for the cases to the Administrator, under the auspices of the Space Act of 1958, as amended. The ICB may recommend a monetary award of up to $100,000, depending on the value of the contribution to government and industry.

NASA officials will present the award later in the year. Additional inquiries on award criteria should be made through the NASA Space Act Awards Liaison Officer at any NASA Center or through the ICB (http://icb.nasa.gov/alos.html).

Additionally, winning cases may be eligible for publication in Innovation in Systems and Software Engineering: A NASA Journal. The contact for this privilege is Dr. Michael Hinchey of the Goddard Space Flight Center.